## STCUDTY CHERCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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Committee :

B. B. BENWELL, S. GOLDBLATT, M. R. WILSON

A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.

## OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

## MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is $\mathbf{£ 3 . 0 0}$ or $\mathbf{\$ 8 . 0 0}$ USA due 1st January. The latter rate includes airmail postage of bulletins and collection charges and is subject to changes from time to time as determined by the Hon. Treasurer. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on LONDON is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

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## PROGRAMME 1982

## PROGRAMME

Sat., April 24th, 2.15 p.m. A.G.M. and Auction.
The A.G.M. and Auction will be held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1 4BH.

## IMPORTANT

The A.G.M. and auction on April 24th will now commence at 2.15 p.m. and not 2.30 p.m. as stated in earlier bulletins.

Details of arrangements for viewing auction lots prior to the sale will be found in the catalogue. It will also be possible to view lots for about 15 minutes immediately before the sale.

May we remind members wishing to obtain a copy of the "BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS TO 1981", to place their orders by 31st March, 1982 in order to benefit from the pre-publication price of $£ 13$ plus $£ 1$ packing and postage.

## DISPLAY

The following is an account of the displays given by Mr. John de Vries and Mr. Graham Hoey to the Study Circle and Roses members at convention held at Leamington Spa last October. We regret we were unable to include this in the last issue of the Bulletin.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. A study of the period from 1883 to 1922.
Mr. de Vries explained that the prime purpose of his study had been to establish that the De La Rue printings of the Trinidad stamps had been made in sheets of 240 stamps, made up in 4 panes of 60 stamps.

From the printings of the period 1913-22 many values and their shades were shown in either sheets or large corner blocks with and with plate control numbers. A noted
example was an interpanneau strip of stamps taken from a right hand position of a sheet of 240 stamps.

For this same period there was also shown values with plate control number " 1 " and " 2 ". From his study he believed that stamps printed from plate number " 2 " were on sale in Trinidad from March, 1919. Mr. de Vries drew attention to what he considered an unusual item - a block of eighteen of the 4 d value on lemon yellow paper with plate control number " 2 ".

For the period 1901-09, items showing plate control numbers " 1 ", " 2 " and " 3 " were displayed and Mr. de Vries explained how the De La Rue records showed that certain values had been printed in sheets of 240 stamps.

From the 1883-96 issues various plate control blocks were displayed which demonstrated how from the 1879 British Contract the newly printed stamps dictated the use of the Crown watermarked paper that was 240 set.

Fiscal and revenue stamps printed from the Trinidad Postage plates and overprinted "FEE" and "FREE FEE" were shown and Mr. de Vries said he had not been able to establish the meaning of the overprints.

Some examples of the 1869 five shillings receipt size stamp were shown and Mr. de Vries said he had so far been unable to establish a satisfactory explanation for this stamp's purpose in use. It did however appear to be coincidental that the Telegraph Service was introduced in Trinidad in 1870 and although this was a private service operated by the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, John de Vries wondered if the five shilling stamp was possibly intended as a telegraph receipt.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POSTAL ISSUES OF THE BAHAMAS

The display was intended to show only a few aspects of the collection, there being no postal history or used material included. These were, firstly, to illustrate the development of the postal issues of the country from the original design to the issued stamps; to show a complete range of the U.P.U. "Specimens" by representing these issued stamps in all possible cases by the "Specimen" sets, along with some earlier "Specimen" material and, thirdly, to show a small selection of the plate flaws and varieties to be found on the various printing plates.

The Chalon Head series was illustrated by a range of Die Proofs, Plate Proofs, and Colour Trials of the 1 d 4 d , and 6 d . values. It included a block of eight of S.G.1a with parallel ink line cancellation used as a printer's specimen in manuscript "Specimen" overprints on S.G.5, 6 and 6a and the "Cancelled" overprints on the later issues. Positional blocks of the Plate Proofs and the issued stamps showed the re-entry on stamp No. 10 and the plate flaws on stamps 40 and 58 , all of which were constant throughout the life of the plate.

The various Key Plate issues were represented by Q.V. Die Proofs and "Specimens"; the original artist's drawing for the Ed. VII issue followed by the Die Proofs and a range of Colour Trials; the printer's Sample Overprints, Die Proofs and "Specimens" of KG V; and the KG VI issues perforated "Specimen". This group included all the known "Specimen" items prepared for issue to the U.P.U. along with a
complete series of the embossed Die Proofs and "Specimen" overprints of the postal stationery for all four reigns.

The Queen's Staircase issues began with the Progressive Die Proofs of the Vignette, followed by a number of the Colour Trials and included all the various errors of the War Tax and Special Delivery overprints. Also shown were all the overprinted and perforated "Specimen" issues including the postal stationery.

The 1920 Peace Issue was shown by a series of Die Proofs, Colour Trials, imperforate and "Specimen" sets and all the subsequent commemorative issues by the sets overprinted or perforated up to the Victory Issue of 1948.

The display concluded with sheets showing the Die Proofs of the Eleutheran Tercentenary and the Q.E. II Coronation issues.

Throughout the display an attempt had been made to show only the unusual items omitting all the standard catalogue stamps where possible as these would be well known to most members of the audience.

As mentioned in the convention report votes of thanks were proposed by Mr . Bobby Messenger and Mr. Bruce Walker.

It was erroneously reported in the last issue of the Bulletin that the Leamington Convention was held in conjunction with the Roses Caribbean P.S. This event was in fact organised by the Study Circle.

It would seem appropriate to mention at this point that the Roses will, in all probability, be holding a similar convention in Leeds next October at the Metropole Hotel. We understand that Malcolm Watts has matters in hand and will publish further details as they become known.

May we offer our congratulations to Frank Deakin on his Vermeil Medal award for "Barbados Postal History from the 17th Century to the 20th", exhibited at PHILATOKYO '81 last October.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

"The Development of Rates and Postage" by A. D. Smith (fascimile reproduction by Quarterman Publications Inc.). (Originally published by George Allen \& Unwin Ltd. in 1917).

This is an historical and analytical study first written as a Thesis for a D.Sc. (Economics) and as such is seldom mentioned in any philatelic context. Primarily it is a detailed and comprehensive study of the Rates of Postage for letters, newspapers and parcels in England, Canada, U.S.A., France and Germany but also includes Minor, Local and International Rates. Packed with facts and extracts from official documents (often in the original language) this is a work which serious students will find fascinating. Although it does not cover West Indies it is, nevertheless, an extremely useful and interesting book.

A copy is now held in the library.

## THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

 STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITITUREfor the period 11th December 1980 to 31st December 1981

| 1980 | INCOME | £ | £ | £ | $£$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Subscriptions (Note 1) | 896.83 |  |  |  |
| 760.47 | less refunds | 8.00 | 888.83 |  |  |
| 294.39 | Donations - Auctions | 561.71 |  |  |  |
| 19.50 | Miscellaneous | 14.49 | 576.20 |  |  |
| 6.00 | Opinion Fees |  | 6.00 |  |  |
| 191.50 | Wine \& Cheese Party |  | 4.81 |  |  |
| - | Leamington Convention |  | 744.57 |  |  |
| 361.80 | Advertising (Note 2) |  | 473.96 |  |  |
| - | Sundries |  | 1.10 | 2695.47 |  |
|  | Sales |  |  |  |  |
| 40.80 | Bulletins | 135.16 |  |  |  |
| 30.30 | Binders | 49.90 |  |  |  |
| 36.50 | Paper No. 5 | 57.75 |  |  |  |
| 72.30 | Paper No. 6 | 36.00 | 278.81 |  |  |
|  | Less Costs |  |  |  |  |
|  | Bulletins | 10.40 |  |  |  |
|  | Binders | 41.85 |  |  |  |
|  | Paper No. 5 | 38.50 |  |  | 2,865.38 |
|  | Paper No. 6 | 18.50 | 108.90 | 169.91 |  |
|  | Balance - excess of expenditure over income carried down to Accumulated Fund |  |  |  | 191.81 |
| 1813.76 |  |  |  |  | 3,057.19 |

## EXPENDITURE

## Printing:

Members List 310.80
Convention Booklet
Bulletins (Note. 3)
$\underline{128.95} \quad 439.75$
$933.41 \quad$ less transfer to stock $\quad \underline{18.15} \quad \underline{1,122.10} \quad 1,561.85$ $1,140.25$
255.15 Postages
313.78
10.55 Telephone \& Stationery 60.94
16.06 Affiliation Fees 14.00
106.50 Room Hire 79.00
3.50 Library Additions 39.00
8.55 Sundries and Travel 18.80
30.00 Insurance 30.00

- Leamington Convention 782.85
- Envelopes (Note 4) 156.97
424.91 Wine \& Cheese Party
1788.63

3,057.19

# THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE 

Balance Sheet
as at 31st December 1981

| ACCUMULATED FUND at 1st January 1981 (Notes 5 \& 8) |  |  |  | £ 2,383.91 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Less excess of expenditure over income for period brought forward |  |  |  | $\underline{191.81}$ |
|  |  |  |  | £ $\underline{\text { 2,192.10 }}$ |
| REPRESENTED BY: |  |  |  |  |
| Cash at Bank | 383.85 |  |  |  |
| Building Society Deposit (Note 6) | 1,500.00 |  |  |  |
| Cash Floats | $\underline{90.00}$ | 1,973.81 |  |  |
| Sundry Debtors |  | 86.00 |  |  |
| Stocks (Note 7) |  |  |  |  |
| Bulletins | 205. 80 |  |  |  |
| Binders | 17.55 |  |  |  |
| Paper No. 1 (bound) | 209.00 |  |  |  |
| Paper No. 1 (Unbound) | 142.00 |  |  |  |
| Paper No. 6 | 33.00 | $\underline{607.35} 2$ | 2,667.20 |  |
| LESS Sundry Creditors: |  |  |  |  |
| Subscription received in advanc |  | 232.25 |  |  |
| Convention refunds \& repayme | s due | 15.25 |  |  |
| B. B.Benwell \& Co Ltd (Bullet | printing) | 227.50 | $\underline{475.10}$ | £ 2,192.10 |

## Notes to the Accounts

1. Some Subscriptions received in advance for 1982 and later years had been credited as income for previous years and to correct this an adjustment has been made by transferr of $£ 51$ from 1981 subscription income to Subscriptions in advance subaccount.
2. Includes $£ 109.80$ in respect of previous period not brought to account.
3. Includes $£ 245.80$ in respect of previous period and not debited therein.
4. These are for despatch of Bulletins and represent a supply for about 12 issues. Being items subject to damage it is considered reasonable to charge the total cost in one years account.
5. The Accumulated Fund at 1st January 1981 was represented by:-

Cash at Bank - General Account 1,335.02

- Publications Account 290.79

Cash Floats
60.00

Value of Stock held
$\underline{698.10}$
£ 2,383.91
6. No account has been taken of interest earned on the Building Society Deposit such interest being payable on 30th September annually. The estimated interest due to 31st December 1981 is $£ 13.87$. The Balance accruing to the Publications Fund is $£ 384.54$.
7. With the exception of Bulletins all stocks are valued at cost price. The current unit cost per Bulletin is in excess of 40 p but stock is a valued at 5 p per copy.
8. No allowance has been included for the value of the library which is currently insured for $£ 2,100$.

6th January 1982
Signed: S. E. Papworth (Hon. Treasurer)

I have duly endorsed the Statement and Balance sheets without material modification. The following has been added:
'I have examined the documents and books containing the Circles accounts and in my opinion the statements of Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet with the Notes thereto give a true and fair picture of the Circle's affairs as at December 31st 1981.

Lastly, here is my Appended Report
During the examination of the books, accounts and papers I was much impressed by the commendable care with which they had been set up and maintained and they reflect considerable credit to the Acting Hon. Treasurer. In my opinion, the change in the method of presentation from a simple Receipts and Payments method to that of Statements and Balance sheets allows a wider, more detailed and accurate picture to be obtained as to the position of the Circle's position and activities.
28th January 1982
Signed Alfred J. Branston

## THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members may wonder why the method of presenting the Annual Accounts has been changed and I hope these notes will provide you with any queries you may have.

The Circle has in the past followed a simple Receipts and Payments accounting method which is quite suitable for a small organisation where any surpluses made are retained in liquid (cash) form, or where no trading for profit is undertaken which ties up Capital for any period of time.

The Circle has reached a stage where its assets are held partly in stock, partly in cash and partly in investment and the accounting method previously used can no longer reflect each years activity, nor does it provide means to detail the worth of the Circle at a fixed point in time.

The accounts are therefore presented this year in the form of Statements of Income and Expenditure for the year and a Balance Sheet as at the end of the year. The Statements should only include the true revenue or expenditure applicable for the period and thus not include such items as forward receipts e.g. Subscriptions received in advance, or expenditure which merely results in the transference of an asset from one for (i.e. cash) to another (i.e. stock).

In making this change there are some one-time penalties. It is not possible to provide a full and exact comparative set of figures for the previous year, although where such figures can be given they are shown and can, of course, be checked against the Accounts previously published in Bulletin No. 108 for March 1981. Using the new accounting method has also meant taking some corrective, and thus non-recurring, action in the first year as can be seen from Notes 1, 2 and 3 to the Accounts. If this corrective action had not been carried out the year would have ended with a deficit of £4.81p.

The two Bank Accounts previously operated (one for Publications and the other for General Purposes) have been amalgamated but as can be seen from Note 6 to the Accounts the Publications Fund can still be treated as a separate entity if so required.

In the past expenditure for items purchase for resale purposes has been charged to the year in which the expenditure occurred so effectively "writing off" assets of some value. When these have eventually been sold - sometimes after two or three years - the proceeds have not represented true income as costs have been ignored. Furthermore the accounting method could not include sums due or bills payable, nor could it take account of Fixed Assets (if they existed) and other minor items such as cash floats. The new accounting method overcomes these faults.

The main benefits from the change are that the Accounts will now present in clearer form the true surplus or deficiency made in the accounting period as a result of the activities carried out, and show how the value of the Circle is distributed. Eventually it will enable the Treasurer to produce periodic Tables showing the Sources and Application of Funds year by year and so give very accurate information to the Committee to enable it to budget for future activities and events.

I must emphasise that these notes do not replace the Report which will be made at the Annual General Meeting.

S.E. Papworth

## NOTES and QUERIES

## BAHAMAS

In connection with Mr. William Hall's query about the Bahamas air mail covers addressed to Dr. Walter Hess, Bulletin No. 116 p 46, the only official cachet was the "FIRST DAILY FLIGHT/NASSAU TO MIAMI/1930". All the others were made by Dr. Hess for the covers he sent off to himself care of various postmasters in the Caribbean. Dr. Hess was the Colonial Surgeon in Nassau for many years and was also a stamp collector. Covers to or from him, mostly "philatelic", are known from the WWI period to about 1930.

Morris Ludington

## BARBADOS

On a recent visit to Barbados I had the opportunity to browse through a series of copies of "The Official Gazette" held in the library of the Barbados Museum. A chance opening at the copy for the 18th April, 1874 was a lucky choice, because the newspaper's front page held a list of postal establishments and their locations on the island.

Two post offices, both unknown to me, were listed as Suburban Post Office "A" and "B". They were both located within the outer districts of Bridgetown, Post Office "A" on the Two Mile Road and "B" at Hothersal Turning. The postal facilities at these offices were not given, but it can be assumed that they were open for the sale of postage stamps and acceptance of mail etc. The existence of these suburban Post Offices could be one explanation for the usage of the different types of the number one "Bootheel" obliterator. Of the three types recorded, perhaps one was in use at the G.P.O. Bridgetown and the others at these Suburban P.O.'s. I could find no record when these offices were opened or the dates of their closures, the run of "The Official Gazette" being incomplete.

As a matter of interest, the locations of the other Post Offices serving the Islands population were given, Christchurch Post Office being situated at Mile Hill, St. Philip's at Six Cross Roads, St. George's at Market Hill, St. John's at Mount Collins, St. Joseph's at Horse Hill, St. James' at Hole Town, St. Thomas' near Police Station and Church, St. Andrew's near Gregg Farm, St. Peter's at Speights Town, St. Lucy's near the Church.

It is interesting to note, on my visit to the island 107 years after the publication of the newspaper from which the above information was gained, that the Post Offices serving St. Philip, St. Joseph, St. James and St. Peter still had the same location.

Anthony Shepherd

## BRITISH GUIANA

Replying to Mr. Goldblatt's notes on the "G.P.O. COUNTER" datestamp used at Georgetown. I fully agree with his view that the G.P.O. counter marks were (and still are) used on general postal business such as receipts, parcels and registration. The latter two instances show incorrect use, but this would be understandable if the datestamp in question was the nearest or only instrument to hand.

I have only one cover (commercial) from Georgetown with postage totalling 14cts. for surface mail to Manchester, England. The stamps being three S.G. 261 and one S.G. 260 and all cancelled "G.P.O. COUNTER/19 NOV/1916" (Townsend and Howe type GPO C1).
The other cancellations I have are either loose or on piece and are as follows:-
$\begin{array}{llllll}1 \text { off 1c. Mar } 7 \text { 1914. } & \text { S.G. } 259 . & 1 \text { off } 6 c . & \text { Oct } 291915 & \text { S.G. } 263 \\ 2 \text { off 2c. Jun } 101915 . & \text { S.G.260. } & \text { 1 off 12c. May } 251914 & \text { S.G. } 264 \\ 2 \text { off 2c. Aug } 30 \text { 1916. S.G.260. } & \text { 1 off 48c. Apr } 251914 & \text { S.G. } 247 \\ 1 \text { off 4c. May 5-- } & \text { S.G.261. } & \text { 1 off 72c. Feb } 91917 & \text { S.G. } 268\end{array}$
It can be seen that in my collection approximately half the cancellations are on low values of 1 ct , and 2 cts . stamps. However, these have mainly been built up in multiples to form 4cts. or above, which would confirm Mr. Goldblatt's findings.

Michael Rego

## BRITISH WEST INDIES

Further to the remarks of Mr. Fitzgerald in Bulletin No. 108 p. 8 and Mr. Hewlett in 110 p .46 , the following evidence may be of interest:

Figure 1 shows the SOUTHSEA cancellation. It is dated 1898 and is from a cover in my collection. Figure 2 is copied from the Robson Lowe sale catalogue of the G.H. Boucher collection on 9th November, 1949. Lots 673 and 675 contain Virgin Islands stamps cancelled "A91". I could not obtain a clear

copy of the "A91" from Robson Lowe photo of lot 675, but it appears identical (five comparisons with dividers) to that on the 1890 Leeward Islands in my collection and these were in use in the Virgin Islands at the same time.


Figure 3 shows the "A91" on an 1890 Leeward Islands stamp. I have inked over a Bank Xerox print. I do not think there can by any doubt that "A91" was in use in both locations at the same time.

There is earlier discussion on this subject in Bulletin No. 60 p.12, March, 1969.


Authur Peart

## B.W.I. General - Coils from Stamp Vending Machines

A few Bulletins back Simon Goldblatt amused us with his attempts to arrange and mount up some of the more exotic items in his collection. I wonder if he has ever faced the problem of storing a full coil of 480 stamps from a vending machine? A recent acquisition of St. Lucia 1c. coil with its full coil leader (illustrated) stimulated my interest in other coil stamps and made me realise that, whereas some information has been published on coil stamps of certain B.W.I. countries, no one to my knowledge has tried to bring all the information together. The checklist below is a first attempt to do so and I should welcome information from members adding to or correcting the listing. I should add that the list does not cover the present reign.

## St LUCIA <br> POSTAGE \& REVENUE P., 1 ROLL OF 4301 CENT STAMPS

Members might be interested in a few inexpert observations about the production of coil stamps. Today a number of countries issue stamps printed in coil form, but until this reign all coils, to my knowledge, were pasted together from sheets torn or cut into strips and bound by their end margins. This must have been rather laborious unless some form of mechanisation was used. Has anyone any information on this point? The only reference to the joinings process which I have seen in print was Robert Devaux's
article on St. Lucia coils (West End Philatelist March-April 1963) which expressed a tentative opinion that the stamps were more likely to be pasted up by the printers than by the local post office. If that was so, they must have had a box or package to protect them in transit and I wonder if any have survived. One would assume that a simple coil would be made up from stamps of the same printing, but an example has apparently been recorded by Dr. Fitz Roett of a Barbados $1 / 2 d$. joined pair where the two stamps were of different shades of bistre. It is not impossible that joined pairs exist of stamps of different perforation or of different colour, although they should of course be of the same denomination. I would be interested to hear of joined pairs where the stamps are not identical.

One of the columns in the table below classifies the coils into horizontal or vertical format. It would seem more efficient to split sheets along the longer axis (i.e. - that with more stamps) in order to minimise the number of joins, although this has not been done in all cases. Another consideration must have been the desirability of using only one size of vending machine; this explains why the Grenada large format stamps of GV and GVI come in vertical strips for the $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. (a vertical format stamp) and in horizontal strips for the 1d. a horizontal format stamp). However, Br. Guiana seems to be an exception to this rule, since both my GVI coil pairs are vertical although the stamps have a different format (perhaps they are not genuine!).

Despite the large quantities of stamps issued for sale in stamp vending machines, relatively few seem to have survived for collectors and some of the coils listed are definitely rare. One reason is that the vending machines often broke down and many stamps may have been damaged. Equally, unsold coils may have been destroyed when the machines were phased out, although some could have been sold over the counter which may explain the relative commonness of, for example, the Grenada 1936 coils. At the same time, there must be plenty of coil stamps in members' collections which are unidentifiable as such. The only sure way of knowing that any of the stamps listed come from a coil is to have a coil join pair (or strip), or a stamp from one end of the roll with the coil leader attached. Even then, forgery cannot be ruled out. Another hazard in the case of used coil join strips is that they might separate when they are floated off a cover. I should add that the great bulk of certain printings was used for coils, with the result that examples in proven sheet form are rare. The best known case is probably the St. Lucia decimal issues (perf. $143 / 4 \times 14$ ), but I suspect it is also true of the GV pictorial coils of Grenada and St. Lucia. In no case, however, so far as I am aware, were no copies of these stamps issued in sheet form (I have, for example, a block of St. Lucia S.G.113a in my collection).

May I close by saying that the checklist below contains a number of assumptions (most of which relate to make-up but in a few cases to the existence of a value) which are distinguished from recorded data by the use of parentheses. The final column notes the source of the information and my acknowledgements go to these pioneers referred to as sources - particularly those in the key at the end of the checklist. May I also express my sincere thanks to Tom Maxwell who was of great assistance in drawing my attention to some of these sources.

Charles Freeland
A CHECK LIST OF B.W. I. COHLS OF GEO.V AND GEO. VI PERIOD


$\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 0 \\ \pi & 0 & 0\end{array}$
$\underset{6}{9}$

@ Orientation Interval
 vertical vertical vertical TEOE1.2.a vertichl
verticnl
 vertical
vertienl
horizontal
(vertical)
(horizontil)
vertinal
vertical
horizoneal

1938 2c violet-blk S.C. 309 p12t
GRFNADA $1936 \frac{1}{3}$ g. green $S, G, 135 \pi$ p $127 \times 13 \frac{1}{4}$ 1936 li, blk \& sepia S.G.136a p19dx123
 1938 id yel-green S,G.153a pl2 $1 \times 135$


continutd ovor-1emi
1.EENARED TSLANLS




## GRENADA

THE GRENADA TETE-BECHE ISSUE OF 1883
(continued from page 59, Bulletin No.111)
TABLE 3 SUMMANY OF PRINTINGS (AFTER EASTON; LONBON PHILATELIST VOL. LXX)

| Value | lst.ptg. | Last ptg. | Sheets of 60 | Stamps | Notes |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | ---: | :--- |
| 1/2d. | Jan.1883 | Sept.1896 | 9483 | 568,990 | Total 11 printings. |
| 1d. | Jan.1883 | Dec.1885 | 2550 | 153,000 | Total 3 printings. |
| 21/2d. | Jan.1883 | Dec.1894 | 7572 | 454,360 | Total 8 printings. |
| 4d. | Jan.1883 | Sept.1888 | 2,034 | 122,040 | Only two printings. |
| 6d. | Jan.1883 |  | 1,012 | 60,720 | Not reprinted. |
| 8d. | Jan.1883 | Nov.1892 | 1,104 | 66,240 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Postage Dues on |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1st.ptg. |
| 1/- | Jan.1883 |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd.1d. | Dec.1886 | Nov.1895 | 18,226 | $1,093,560$ | Not reprinted. |
|  |  | Total 400 specimens. | 42,081 |  |  |

To this sheet total must be added an unknown number of Grenada Revenue Stamps and the small printing of Montserrat Revenue Stamps. The Revenue Stamps were printed in 1884 \& 1887 and replaced by the Queen Victoria Key Type Postage \& Revenue stamps between 1895 and 1899. It we estimate the total sheets of Revenue stamps at 20,000 then the total of 42,000 pulls from the Head-plate is well within the capabilities of a De La Rue steel faced electro. This is assuming that only one pane of 60 sets existed and that electros were not made for each value.

## HEAD PLATE FLAWS CONFIRMED IN FIRST PRINTINGS

4. 6d., 8d. , 1/- 37. 8d. (No cut left frame).
5. 6d., 6d.
6. 8d.
7. 6d.
8. 6d., 8d.
9. 6d.
10. 1d.
11. 4d.
12. 6d. (first state).
13. 6d.
14. 6d.
15. 1d., 6d., 8d. , 1/-.

## UNITS NORMAL IN FIRST PRINTINGS

15, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32.

## HEAD PLATE FLAWS FOUND ON REVENUE STAMPS

GRENADA: 1, 7 (first state), 21.
MONTSERRAT: 37.

## ASSOCIATION OF HEAD PLATE FLAWS WITH ABNORMAL POSITION OF WATERMARK.

It will be appreciated that each horizontal row of the plate will normally be associated with either upright or inverted watermark. A few examples have been found
where a unit has the watermark in the abnormal position (for that unit). The following examples have been found. $21,32,43,44$ and $49 / 50$ over 55/56 in a block of four with plate number. Where the unit is usually associated with a variety of the "GRENADA POSTAGE" strip this association still occurs i.e. $43,49,50$ in the above examples. This is to be expected if the explanation is that of inversion of the whole plate on the paper. The continued association would not be expected if the abnormal watermark position were due to inversion of a row of six Queen's heads in the forme, as would be possible if the head plate was not a single unit as I have postulated, (cf. page 427 of the De La Rue History). The block of four described above would require inversion of two rows of Heads while leaving the "GRENADA POSTAGE" strips unchanged.

I will now consider in more detail some of the flaws. One of the problems of this issue is the size of the printing plate; was it of four panes as stated by Bacon and by Charlton? Or was it of one pane only? I will try to present the evidence bearing this question, but I cannot pretend to have solved it. Charlton stated that the plate numbers occur twice on each pane in both top and bottom margins. Moreover he said that the plate numbers could be plated. To me one of the problems is that if one studies the diagram of the sheet Crown over CA paper as illustrated in Postage Stamps in the Making (Melville) there is not enough room for the two sets of numbers in the margin between upper and lower panes. This is confirmed on the stamps by examining the position of the number in relation to the letters of "CROWN AGENTS".

Stamps can only be allocated to a pane if the sheet margin is attached and stamps printed on all four panes of the paper certainly can be found. My material which can be allotted to a pane is listed below:-
$1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. 2 complete panes of 60 , both lower right.
Block of 4, 5/6 over 11/12, upper right pane.
Block of 4, 49/50 over 55/56, lower left pane, watermark inverted.
Block of 12, 19 to 24 over 25 to 30 , upper right pane.
4d. Block of $4,1 / 2$ over $7 / 8$, upper left pane.
Block of 12, 1 to 6 over 7 to 12, upper left pane.
8d. Pair, 2 over 8 , lower left pane.
2nd. 1d. Complete lower right pane.
Pair, 18 over 24, upper right pane.
Pair, 42 over 48 , upper right pane.
Block of $4,37 / 38$ over 43/44, lower left pane.
Block of $4,53 / 54$ over 59/60, lower right pane.
Single, 5, upper right pane.
Single, 56, lower right pane.
My list of flaws on the Head plate is as they occur on the lower right pane sheets. There is no doubt that all four quarters of the paper were used. In all the material listed above from other panes the same flaws are found on the expected unit. Moreover no example of a "new" flaw, i.e. one not on the lower right pane was found, as one might have expected in the production of four panes from a master.

Returning again to a comparison of the two panes of the $1 / 2$ d., - the variations in the positions of the strips have already been detailed - one must consider units 7 and 31 which show additional new flaws on Pane B as compared with Pane A.

No. 7 shows an additional new curved scratch from the shading behind the neck into the S.E. corner. The two blocks of the 4 d . both show the first state, and they are both upper left pane.

No. 31 has a prominent cut in the right ornamental panel, not on Pane A. It seems reasonable to regard Pane B as later than Pane ( A ? - missing). There is nothing to suggest that the variations are due to more efficient make-ready on Pane A. In his article in the P.J.G.B. 1953 Mr . Charlton illustrates the second stage of unit 31. In the text he mentions the cut panel and states that it occurs on "the bottom left-hand pane on all values". I have only found it on the $1 / 2 d ., 2^{1 / 2 d}$. and 1887 1d. Assuming Mr. Charlton's statements are correct, we have the extraordinary situation where a flaw occurring in two states on one pane, occurs in the later state on at least one other pane, and in all values some of which were not reprinted!

Unit 55 also poses some problems. It is the first stamp in the last row. It occurs therefore in the lower left plate number block. Its interest lies in the combination of progressive flaws on both head-plate and "GRENADA POSTAGE" strip. First consider the head-plate - the first state is best recognized by the shading flaw near the S.E. corner ornament. The irregularity of the top right frame is difficult to identify in single copies. The second state shows a clear break in the right frame slightly below the centre of the sixth diamond from the top. It varies in clarity with inking. I have the first state in 1883 printings of 1 d .6 d ., 8 d ., and $1 /$ - and in a used $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. of uncertain date (serifed C postmark? 1888).

The second state is on both panes of $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. (lower right), $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. (lower left), two copies of 8 d . mint (with marked wear of letters) and the lower right pane of 1887 1d. If four panes existed, how does one explain the presence of the second state on two panes; unless of course a second set of panes was made after the development of the later stage.

Considering now the "GRENADA POSTAGE" strip. This has already been described, and it is emphasized that the weakness of the base of the legend involves particularly the "P" of POSTAGE which is shortened and pointed; the lower bar of the "E" of "POSTAGE" points down and is usually broken on the top surface of the end. Mr. Charlton mentioned and illustrated the marked state of wear which apparently occurs only on the 8 d . value. His explanation that "it is likely that printing started with the halfpenny value, and finished with the One Shilling, so that wear would be greater with the higher values", is at variance with his earlier statement that "it was necessary to make a new electro for each value". All my copies from both states of the head-plate, with the exception of the two 8 d . from the second state, show an early but variable degree of wear. It will be noted that the copy of 8 d . from the first state of the head-plate is from the first of the two printings of this value and does not show the marked state of wear of "GRENADA POSTAGE". If confirmation of the identify of the two units is required, it will be found in the value strip where there is a notch on the inside of the
"C" of "PENCE" near the top. It seems probable that the marked wear of the "GRENADA POSTAGE" strip occurred during the second printing of this value in November, 1892. After this date there were three printings each of the $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. and $2^{1 / 2 d}$ d. values. Copies of these values from unit 55 dated 1894 onwards would be of great interest. As I doubt whether separate electros were made for each value, the fact that the marked state of wear has not been reported on the $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. and $2^{1 / 2 d}$ d. values could be explained by the replacement in the forme of this single "GRENADA POSTAGE" strip. The only other unit in this strip showing an abnormality is no. 58 where the base of the "E" of "GRENADA" is short and weak.

Weakness of the base of "GRENADA POSTAGE" is found on at least one other unit and must be distinguished from unit 55. I refer to unit 4 in the top row of the pane and therefore with upright watermark. The watermark will normally be inverted on unit 55. The thinning of the letters involves "GRENADA POS", particularly the "D" and usually leaves the "AGE" normal. Unit 4 has a dent in the right frame and I have this flaw on both lower right panes of $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$., 4 d . (upper left pane), $6 \mathrm{~d} ., 8 \mathrm{~d}$. and $1 /-$. The weakness of the letters is associated on all except $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. pane B and 4 d .

The position is further complicated by:
a. A copy of $1 / 2$ d. dated June, ' 95 with inverted watermark, a normal right frame but the typical "GRENADA POSTAGE" weakness.
b. Two copies of $2 \frac{1}{2}$ d. with inverted watermark, normal frame and very marked weakness of "GRENADA". The bases of the "G" and "D" are completely missing. The dates are June '92 and February ' 93 . In each the small 2 is joined to the fraction-bar of the value.

I do not think that there is any doubt that a and b are both examples of the thinning usually associated with unit 4 . The flaw on the value of the $2^{1 / 2}$ d. should permit plating, which would be of great interest. It will be noted that there are only two "single" strips in the forme and the possibilities for exchange are limited. The bottom strip, of course, has the watermark inverted.

Further evidence to suggest that the printing forme was of 60 and not 240 multiples i.e. one pane of 60 , not four panes, can now be mentioned.

In De La Rue History, page 342, in discussion about the size of the original order it is stated:- "these calculations proved to be based on sheets of 120 multiples, and the quantities were consequently doubled with consent of the Crown Agents, because the sheets contained 120 (sic) multiples". The last figure of 120 is obviously an error for 60. Mr. Easton in the London Philatelist, Vol.LXX, page 15 in his calculations of the quantities printed refers to "a forme of 60 multiples, not invoiced"

The method of perforation confirms a sheet of 60 , not 240 . Any blocks with margin will be found to be imperforate in the left and top margins. In 1878, De La Rue installed new comb machines gauge 14, which gradually replaced the old Somerset House machines. The new machines perforated two vertical lines in the margin between right and left panes, thus eliminating "wing margins". There are five horizontal holes of perforation between these two vertical lines of perforation. The Grenada sheets are usually guillotined through these horizontal holes. I have one block
in which the right hand vertical line of perforations is still present. This block is units $5,6 / 11,12$ i.e. the upper right corner of the pane, and the marginal watermark shows that it is printed on the upper right pane of the paper. We know therefore that the new machine, capable of perforating at once two panes printed side by side, was being used to perforate the panes singly. It seems most unlikely that, if the forme contained more than one pane, the panes would have been guillotined before perforation.

## The Plate Numbers

Mr. Charlton stated that the sheets of 240 stamps were divided into four panes of 60, each pane had the plate number twice in both top and bottom margins and that "the plate numbers themselves can be plated, and allocated to their correct position and pane by the slight irregularities in shape of both the numbers and the circles in which they are contained". I cannot confirm this opinion. The numbers at the top differ from those at the bottom but I cannot separate those from upper or lower panes. For example the numbers at top of upper left pane appear the same as those at the top of the lower right pane. Curiously I have not found any plate numbers from the bottom of the upper panes. I have already said that there does not appear to be room for two sets of numbers between upper and lower panes. I wonder if the sheets were divided before printing, the horizontal guillotine being just below the frame watermark for the upper pane, thus leaving no room for plate numbers at the bottom of the upper panes of paper.

## VARIETIES ON THE VALUE STRIPS

A few of the more prominent varieties are:-
$1 / 2 d$. Missing foot of the left vertical of "N" of "HALF", unit 48.
1d. Broken second "N" of "NNY", unit 22.
Notch at junction of top and stem of "Y" of "PENNY", unit 18.
Broken "N" of "ONE", unit 34.
$212 d$. Small 2 joined to fraction bar.
Break in fraction bar near top.
Thickened top of large 2, broken small 2.
Break in top of large 2.
8d. Sliced top of "EI" of "EIGHT", unit 8.
Marked thinning of top of all letters, not later stage of 8 .

## COLOURED FLAWS ON THE HEAD PLATE

Only two constant colour flaws have been found:-
$21 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. A small dot of colour joining the fifth and sixth lines of shading on the neck almost at their left ends. Unit 32. Not present on either $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. sheet, but is faintly visible on the lower right pane of 1887 1d. I have no examples of unit 32 on other values.

6d. A dot of colour in the lower left corner ornament, in the space between the inner vertical frame and the triangular coloured device, at the very top of the triangle. Unit 28. The flaw is not present on $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$. and 18871 d . Such a flaw could be due to the temporary adherence of a foreign particle to the plate. The particle would be
removed when the electroplate was cleaned before printing another value. The existence of the flaw on one value only therefore would not necessarily be evidence in favour of separate electros for each value.
The answers to many of the problems posed by this issue will only come with the examination of more material. It is hoped that this article will stimulate other collectors to examine their stamps of this issue. I would be obliged if any further information could be passed to me for assessment and recording.

Russell Jones

## JAMAICA

Below are two reduced Xerox illustrations of the very common "OFFICIAL," overprint. It is stated in all books that no varieties exist and yet these overprints do vary in length and very slightly in type. Measured with calipers the original enlarged photograph shows a differential in length of 2 mm . and allowing for the enlargement the right hand example is about 1 mm . shorter than the left. The type difference is not so apparent in the enlargement - or could it be wishful thinking?


I have sorted through several hundred copies of the overprinted stamps and I find that I have the two lengths in all values.

Robert Swarbrick

## ST. LUCIA (B.W.I)

## THE PROBLEM OF THE KEY PLATE by S.F. Cross-Rudkin

In the key and duty plate types of the majority of values of many colonies from KG. V to Q.E. issues, careful examination often discloses a doubling of a part of the design. This may be found as doubling of letters, of a frame line (at either side or both left and right together) or even a shadow effect where doubling of the monarch's head occurs.

The effect is not unlike re-entering, but re-entries do not occur with this method of printing.

Many philatelists have been intrigued by this problem and some time ago it was brought to the attention of Mr. Robson Lowe who sent the problem to Mr. Ivan Knops, a former master printer with Messrs. De La Rue. He kindly replied in the terms of the letter below:

May I reply to your letter of 4th regarding the ghost doubling on letter-press stamps. Simple but difficult to explain.

As a boss, quality-controller, or what you will, I would mark the fault in red ink and leave it to the printer to correct as best he could. I was only interested in what caused the fault if he could not cure it. Let us therefore reconstruct the circumstances that would produce such a fault.

A perfect print in letterpress is dependent on the correct pressure between paper and plate (assuming the plate has been inked properly). Correct pressure in not just overall, but point to point. General pressure is controlled by "underlay". That is pieces of paper - down to tissue - under the plate to bring the surface to general profile. Point to point pressure is controlled by packing under the printing blanket, i.e. the rubber-covered piece of material on which the paper is laid before it comes in contact with the plate. This is "overlay". All this is known as "make-ready".

However, and this is where the difficulty comes in, a stop requires far less pressure than a solid. Slightly too much on a stop (surrounded by nothing) will give an exaggerated edge line; too little on a solid (1/16 inch away from the stop) will give a mottled appearance. Remember, in those days the blanket (see above) was very uneven. The thickness of paper varied + or $-10 \%$. The machines were good if they were to $5 / 1000$ inch tolerance. I later insisted on $1 / 1000$ inch tolerance on the printing surfaces. Anyway, the printer struggled on with tiny pieces of tissue, spit and cow gum.

However, and here's the rub, after a few hundred sheets all the elaborate makeready would - irregularly - compress or collapse. Local adjustments were needed throughout the run. Pieces to fit the profile of a portrait or other parts of individual stamps were added. If gum was used to stick the bits on, then it stayed there. But gum has an overflow edge which can itself cause trouble. Spit was much better. Each time the printer had to lift the blanket to adjust the "overlay" there was a danger that a piece of spit-stuck packing mould move. They were pretty skilled, but sometimes it might happen.

In the case in point, the carefully cut packing of the solid to the left of the portrait has moved - say $1 / 16$ inch. The edge of the solid is good and hard. Edges always are. Behind the edge insufficient pressure gives a ghost image.

You will readily understand that such faults could be anywhere and in any direction. Only the best printers were on stamps, and they were pretty alert. Most of the faults were eliminated (taken out) in the examination, but you devils always spot the one that got away.

I only hope all this is of some use, and is neither too boring nor involved.
Yours aye.
Ivan.

A number of students had been hovering around the right solution and here we have confirmation from the man who really knows, the man who was on the spot. It is a delight to find professionals who take our hobby seriously and such kind co-operation is greatly appreciated.

The above article first appeared in the December 1979 issue of The Philatelist and provides the answer to David Birley's St. Lucia problem p. 59 Bulletin No.110. It is reproduced here by kind invitation of Peter Collins, Editor of The Philatelist.

## TURKS ISLANDS

In the September, 1981 issue of the Bulletin Mr. Louis E. Zell asks about the earliest known letters from Turks Island.

I have one dated 8th August 1811, addressed to Bermuda and endorsed "P. Schooner Hussar / Captn. Whitney". There are of course no postal markings of any sort as there were no post offices in either colony at this time. There is no notation of the date of receipt, and I have not yet checked the Bermuda newspapers for the date of arrival of the "Husaar", so do not know when the letter reached Bermuda.

I also have another letter to Bermuda headed "Salt Cay, 2d September 1833" and endorsed per "Fame $/ \mathrm{Ca}(\mathrm{pt}$.) Place". The letter is addressed to Hamilton and the "Fame" must have entered St. Georges where the letter was posted at the P.O. for there is a " 3 d " in black in manuscript in the upper right corner of the front. This was the inland postage, charged to the addressee. A manuscript note on the back states that it was received on September 26th and was answered on November 5th.

I too have a letter to the United States, but it is two years later than Mr. Zell's. It is from Salt Cay and dated 4 September 1837 and is addressed to Providence, Rhode Island. No ship's name is endorsed on it but it has a clear "NEW YORK SEP 25" datestamp and the handstamp "SHIP" (twice, one inverted) all in red. The rate in manuscript purple ink is " 20 c ", 10 c Ship Letter and 10c to Providence, to be collected on delivery.

I have found that letters from 1842 on are considerably more plentiful in comparison to these early letters, though even they are rare.

Morris Ludington

In reply to Charles Freeland's article on B.W.I. watermark varieties in Bulletin No.110, I find I have Bahamas S.G. 98 (2/-) inverted; St. Vincent ( $1 / 2 d$ d.) S.G. 47 reversed; Turks Island S.G. 120 inverted.

John H. Challis

## NEW MEMBERS

BAYLE, M.R., 5, Bowbank Close, Tunstall. Sunderland. Tyne \& Wear. Interest: not known.
COHEN, Christopher, 17, Goathland Rd., Stenson Fields, Derby, DE2 3BW. Interest: St. Vincent stamps and postal history.
JOBNSTON, J.R.V., 241, Tinshill Rd., Leeds, LS16 7BU.
Interest: Leeward Islands, Nevis and St. Christopher.
NATHAN, Derek Maurice, 7, Cromford Way, New Malden, KT3 3BB.
Interest: British Guiana stamps and postal history
SHEEN, Keith Gordon Francis, 8, Filbert Drive, The Paddocks, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks., RG3 5DZ.

Interest: Bermuda covers before Q.E.II
SLINGSBY John, (Dealer in Fine Stamps) 3, Alexandra Rd., Bristol, BS8 2DD. Interest: not known.
SMITH, Derek C., 10, Muriel Rd., Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 2HH.
Interest: St. Vincent from 1861, stamps, specimens and p/h.
SMITH, John M., Bishops Stortford.
Interest: Bermuda.

## DECEASED MEMBER

BISHOP, C.W.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BARNETT, C.F.R., c/o 12, Eureka Rd., Kingston 5, Jamaica, W.I. LESLIE, G.F. 278, Ralston St., San Francisco, California 94132, U.S.A. MUSHLIN, B., c/o N.P.S. 1, Whitehall Place, London. SW1A 2HE.
SMITH, M., 10, Claremont Rd., Rother, Sunderland, Tyne \& Wear.
TYLER, J.S., 105, Burnham Green Rd., Burnham Green, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0NH. WALKER, W. Danforth, P.O. Box 1422, Springfield, VA 22151 U.S.A.
WIKE, R., 20, Isherwood Close, Cinnamon Brow, Fearnhead, Warrington, WA2 0DJ.

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